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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 16, 2020

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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 33 EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-33-20

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 33 reduces the open fishing time for set gillnets from twelve hours to six hours per day, or from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., in that portion of the General Subdistrict of the Northern District east of the Susitna River, including Fire Island, on Monday, August 17, 2020 (see Figure 1).

By regulation, Drift Gillnet Areas 3 and 4 are open for regular fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. starting Monday, August 17, 2020. All other set gillnet areas of UCI, other than the area east of the Susitna River in the General Subdistrict of the Northern District including Fire Island and the Upper Subdistrict of the Central District, will fish the regulatory hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020.

The Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery closed for the season on August 16.

The Division of Sport Fish released Emergency Order 2-SS-2-48-20, prohibiting the use of bait in the Little Susitna River effective 12:01 a.m., August 6. On August 11, Emergency Order 2-SS-2-50-20 reduced the bag and possession limit for coho salmon effective 12:00 a.m., August 13. The Little Susitna River coho salmon sustainable escapement goal (SEG) is 9,200–17,700 fish. Recent daily weir counts remain below average. As of August 16, total passage through the Little Susitna weir of 4,726 coho salmon projects that the minimum SEG will not be achieved.

The restrictive actions to commercial fishing in this announcement are intended to reduce the harvest of coho salmon returning to the Little Susitna River.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

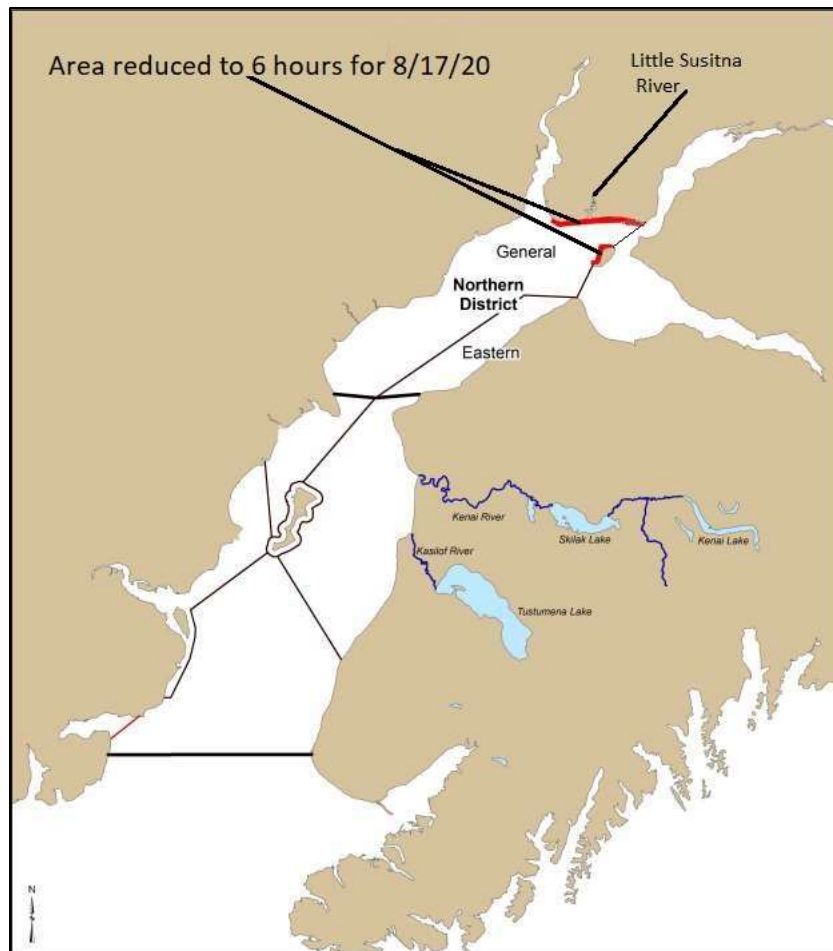


Figure 1. Map of the area restriction for the August 17, 2020 fishing period.